ISSUE

As a Councillor leading on road safety, flooding and road repairs, I feel ERYC Highways have failed to apply some **Nolan Principles[[1]](#footnote-1)** of conduct in public life, thereby tacitly **disregarding[[2]](#footnote-2) [[3]](#footnote-3)** our status.

I understand ERYC’s priority and resource challenges; indeed, have acknowledged them. I am also aware our Parish is a minnow in their wider world.

But, it is surely **not** unreasonable to expect acknowledgement, just a few minutes work, and later get a considered response with reference to policy, precedent, or evidence, and future steps, signed off by a named official. I feel ERYC Highways have not provided timely acknowledgements nor clearly explained responses, without being pressed to do so, and have taken disrespectful time to do so which, in my opinion, amounts to disregard of the PC. What is my evidence for this?

BACKGROUND

I’m not going bore you with a chronology of events and responses, or lack of, although I could and do have documentary evidence to support what I say, but I will illustrate my feeling with a brief outline of one road safety item as I see it.

ERYC apologised for not replying to my December letter, claiming it was inadvertently filed as NFA, and say they replied to my 25 Jan 24 email on 31 Jan 24 (not traced in my systems), They also offered an explanation why they replied to a Ward Cllr and not to me directly.

But surely that’s at odds with their email on 25 Jan 24, directly to me, as lead Cllr, where Carl Gillyons said: “*Hi Mr Phillips, Good to meet you (and Mr Dantor) too and* ***thank you for bringing to my attention the short fall in service*** *…. I now have a new Service Manager in post who … I have asked .. to* ***carry out a mini review of the situation you describe*** *and to* ***feed back to me*** *when she has built* ***a full picture****. …* ***one of us will be back in touch with you to arrange a meeting to discuss*** *this and what, if anything, we are able to do to support the questions and points you raise. In the meantime… thank you for your patience and ..* ***rest assured that we will be back in touch with you*** *in the coming weeks (asap)*”.

This clearly indicates they knew it was the PC, specifically **me**, not a Ward Cllr, raising queries, and so it is surely reasonable to question explanations offered by ERYC in the email they say was sent on 31 Jan 24. Nor have ERYC convincingly explained why or how my requests in December were filed as NFA. Doesn’t this compromise NOLAN principles: **objectivity**, **openness**, a**ccountability**.

We all serve on the PC according to NOLAN because we strongly believe local governance is a lynch pin of democracy, particularly in a rural parish and had, perhaps naively, expected ERYC to value our contribution accordingly. And please let me be clear, it is not the final decision on road safety from ERYC, which we have accepted in true democratic grace even though we still disagree with it, that I rail against. It is the evident long struggle endured to get someone in ERYC to sign off as **accountable** for that decision, which could justifiably be taken as disregard for our relevance.

And to add evidential weight, it is surely no coincidence ERYC have still not acknowledged nor actioned our flood and road damage letter of 8 Feb 24. By failing to communicate with us **objectively,** one could be forgiven for feeling that ERYC wish to avoid scrutiny (lack **openness**) and to being held **accountable** and I contend that this amounts to a disregard of our status.

PROPOSAL

Hence my; **Proposal: To place on record, for the benefit of those we serve to represent, our opinion that ERYC Highways Department have shown disregard for our status as a PC.**

1. **Nolan: Leadership, Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty.** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Dictionary: The fact of showing no care, or respect, for something or others opinion; to ignore something or to treat as unimportant.** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Thesaurus: Disrespect, indifference, contempt, disdain, neglect, ignore, discount, take no notice of.**  [↑](#footnote-ref-3)